

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 CU-04 AID-20 /111 W
----- 028250

R 190927Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9626
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINK, ID

SUBJECT: REPORT THAT MAJ GEN SARWO EDHIE HAS SUBMITTED
RESIGNATION

1. REPORT THAT MAJOR GENERAL SARWO EDHIE (CURRENTLY
COMMANDANT OF INDONESIAN MILITARY ACADEMY IN MAGELANG) HAS
SUBMITTED RESIGNATION WAS PUBLISHED IN DAILY WQADI
ON NOV 17 AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED BY REUTERS.
ACCORDING DAILY BERITA BUANA OF NOV 19, WHEN
REPORTERS QUERIED EDHIE ABOUT THE ABADI STORY HE
EXPRESSED ANGER THAT HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS WITH DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT SUPERIORSHAD BEEN "LEAKED" BUT DID NOT
SPECIFICALLY DENY THE REPORT.

2. COMMENT: IF THIS IS TRUE IT WILL BE NO GREAT
SURPRISE. EDHIE HAS MADE CLEAR TO SEVERAL RECENT
VISITORS TO MAGELANG THAT HE IS UNHAPPY WITH HIS PRESENT
ASSIGNMENT THERE, PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HIS PROSPECTS FOR
PROMOTION, AND DEEPLY DISILLUSIONED WITH
CURRENT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. EDHIE HAS ALSO
REPORTEDLY INCURRED THE WRATH OF SENIOR OFFICERS
(AND OF MRS SUHARTO) BY EXTRAMARITAL ACTIVITIES
WITH WIVES OF OTHER GENERALS, PLUS THE FACT HE HAS
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TWO WIVES HIMSELF, AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS FOR

SOME TIME THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PROMOTED.

3. EDHIE WAS A HERO TO THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS OF
1966-67, AND ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN OUT OF TOUCH WITH CIVILIAN
STUDENTS FOR SOME TIME, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CURRENT
GENERATION OF STUDENT PROTESTORS COULD ATTEMPT TO
PORTRAY THIS CHARISMATIC FIGURE AS A MARTYR
SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR CAUSE. (WHEN EDHIE WAS QUESTIONED
ABOUT LATEST STUDENT ACTIONS BY BERITA BUANA REPORTER,
HE POINTED OUT THAT OFFICIAL BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS IS
STILL IN EFFECT AND REFUSED TO SAY MORE.)
GALBRAITH

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Message Attributes

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